

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested. It is submitted that entry of these amendments will render the present claims allowable or, in the alternative, simplify the issues for appeal.

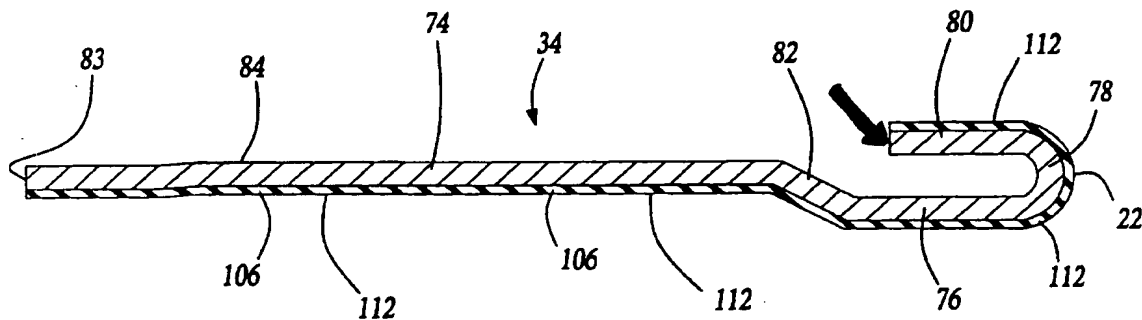
Upon entry of the above amendments, claims 1-4, 7-10, 12 and 14-25, as amended, will be pending. These amendments are fully supported throughout the specification, for example, by Figures 10 and 11. Accordingly, no new matter has been introduced.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments fully address this rejection.

Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 12-13, 15-16, 18-19, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jelinek (US 4,026,565). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Jelinek neither teaches or suggests a liner conforming with the convex and continuously curved inner peripheral edge ***and a portion of the frame in addition to the inner peripheral edge***. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 8, 17, 19 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Plunkett (US 6,089,572). In addition, claims 2, 14 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Plunkett in view of Breaker (US 5,518,257). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

The Applicants submit that Plunkett neither teaches nor suggests ***a convex and continuously curved inner peripheral edge over the full width of the gasket***. Reproduced below is the relevant section of Figure 3, as illustrated by the Plunkett reference. For comparison, the Applicants have indicated with an arrow, what is believed to be the analogous inner peripheral edge of Plunkett. As can be seen from this illustration, such an edge is not convex and continuously curved. This deficiency is not remedied by the combination of Plunkett with Breaker, which the Examiner cites merely for the use of PTFE liner. Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of this rejection.



Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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